



USAID | HAITI

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CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Background

Civil society efforts are critical to addressing Haiti's fundamental problems of bad governance, lack of inclusion and lack of consensus. Stronger civil society and community organizations, along with a more capable and independent media, can play a crucial role in advocating for governance reforms, monitoring policy implementation, and bridging the gap between citizens and their elected officials.

Objectives

A healthy civil society is vital to rebuilding social capital and fostering a culture of peace. The objective of the Civil Society Advocacy (CSA) program is to see citizens' organizations, fortified with robust civic knowledge, democratic values and organizing skills, advocate for issues of interest to themselves, their communities, or the general public, resulting in those issues becoming part of the public policy agenda. These objectives are all linked by a common theme: the development of better informed and more active participation by Haitian citizens. Civil society can serve as a stabilizing factor to mitigate sources of conflict, and a medium for transmitting and moderating relationships between citizens and their government. The program will prioritize strengthening local organizations, empowering them to become active agents for change. The program will target youth as well as ensure that all program activities take directly into account differences in the way in which men and women are affected by issues related to civil society advocacy in Haiti.

Partners

In order to reach these goals, USAID through PACT, in cooperation with its Consortium partners Internews and National Democratic Institute (NDI), will implement this program.

Activities

The Consortium will implement activities under four mutually-supporting, work-stream clusters ("components"). These are:

- Component 1, NDI: Civic Education and Communities Initiatives. Activities under this component will promote civic education on democratic norms and values, and seek to act upon those values through the promotion of community-driven initiatives.
- Component 2, PACT: Civil Society Advocacy. Activities under this component will strengthen the ability of civil society organizations – be they at the national or sub-national level – to identify, articulate, defend and promote citizens' interests, thus positively impacting policy formation and implementation by the government.
- Component 3, Internews: Communications and Media. Component three envisions a range of activities that will increase the relevance, quality, and reach of community radio stations and regional journalists' networks.
- Component 4, PACT: Civil Society Organizational Capacity Building. Activities under component four will be focused on increasing the institutional effectiveness of CSOs, in order to ensure and increase their ability to engage in advocacy.

USAID Support

On September 4, 2007, USAID awarded and signed a \$15 millions Cooperative Agreement with PACT to implement a three years (3) Civil Society Advocacy Program in Haiti. PACT, with its Consortium partners, intends to achieve its objectives through interventions including: technical assistance; sub-grant mechanisms (supporting both national and sub-national advocacy campaigns); advocacy training; and organizational development. Civic advocacy is a pillar not only of democratic governance but also of stable societies.